

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

51

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN CH KS

SUBJ: FONOFF VIEWS ON KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. PEKING 802; B. HONG KONG 4590

SUMMARY: CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR ROK OF INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENT, FONOFF SEES KIM IL SUNG'S VISIT TO PEKING AS ATTEMPT TO ENLIST CHINESE SUPPORT FOR UNDERMINING ROK. JAPANESE DOUBT PEKING WOULD SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN ADVENTURISM BUT THINK PRC HAS AGREED TO MAINTAIN FIRM SUPPORT FOR DPRK POSITION ON UN QUESTION, AND TO BACK PYONGYANG'S EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ROK INTERNATIONAL POSITION. IN ROK, FONOFF SUSPECTS CALLS FOR "UNITY" IN SEOUL, FOLLOWING KIM'S PEKING VISIT, MAY SERVE AS MEANS TO CRACK DOWN ON OPPOSITION POLITICS. ROK PREMIER KIM JONG PIL'S VISIT TO TOKYO THIS WEEK IS ALSO SEEN AS PART OF ROKG REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG'S JOURNEY TO PEKING. ALTHOUGH ROKG HAS NOT INFORMED GOJ PURPOSE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

OF PREMIER KIM JONG PIL'S VISIT, FONOFF EXPECTS SECURITY CONCERNS TO BE UPPERMOST IN KIM'S MIND. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF ASSESSMENT OF KIM IL SUNG VISIT TO PEKING DIFFERS

ONLY IN EMPHASIS FROM USLO'S AND CONGEN HONG KONG'S ANALYSIS (REFTELS). IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NE ASIA DIVDIR SEO AND DEP DIR NAITO, BOTH EXPRESSED BELIEF INITIATIVE CAME FROM PYONGYANG AND WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS. KIM ACHIEVED MUCH LESS THAN HIS MAXIMUM DEMANDS WHICH POSSIBLY INCLUDED PRC SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST ROK. PEKING APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN KIM ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM KIM'S HARD LINE ATTITUDE TOWARD THIRD COUNTRIES DEALING WITH ROK AND IN UN MATTERS. JAPANESE BELIEVE ONE RESULT OF KIM'S VISIT IS TO CLOSE EVEN TIGHTER THE DOOR TO CROSS RECOGNITION MANEUVER BY TOKYO AND WASHINGTON OF PYONGYANG AND BY PEKING AND MOSCOW OF SEOUL. ALTHOUGH BELIEVING THAT KIM ALSO SOUGHT ECONOMIC AID FROM PEKING, FONOFF THINKS MILITARY AND POLITICAL FACETS OF VISIT WERE EMPHASIZED IN DISCUSSIONS.

2. PRIMARY INTEREST OF JAPANESE IN KIM'S TRIP IS IMPACT VISIT MAY HAVE ON SOUTH KOREANS AND FONOFF IS INTRIGUED WITH MANNER ROK HAS PLAYED VISIT. SEO NOTED THAT WHILE ROK PRESS HAS EMPHASIZED HEIGHTENED THREAT FROMNK AS RESULT OF KIM'S VISIT, PRES PARK'S SPEECH WAS COUCHED IN TERMS TO REASSURE SOUTH KOREANS. SEO ADDED THAT KCIA AND SENIOR ROK MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE GIVEN JAPANESE YET ANOTHER ASSESSMENT AND ONE WHICH COINCIDES WITH GOJ FONOFF'S ANALYSIS. KCIA AND ROK OFFICERS ARE NOT EXCITED ABOUT RESULTS OF VISIT AND THEY TOLD GOJ THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KIM VISIT HAS CHANGED MILITARY EQUATION IN KOREAN PENINSULA NOR IS THE THREAT AGGRAVATED.

3. WITH THESE VARIANT INTERPRETATIONS IN MIND, FONOFF FOCUSSES ON DOMESTIC POLICIES ROKG MAY PURSUE IN COMING PERIOD. SEO WONDERS IF SEOUL MEDIA PLAY STRESSING THREAT TO ROK DOES NOT INDICATED THAT ROKG WILL USE CALL FOR "UNITY" IN FACE OF "THREAT" AS MEANS TO ALLAY OPPOSITION DEMANDS. SHOULD ROKG USE THIS TACTIC, SEO THINKS "SENSE OF UNITY" WOULD BE SHORTLIVED AND ROKG WOULD QUICKLY RETURN TO REPRESSIVE METHODS, IF INDEED THERE WERE EVEN ANY LESSENING

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

OF SUCH METHODS.

4. FONOFF SEES VISIT TO TOKYO MAY 8-9 OF ROK PREMIER KIM JONG PIL AS ELEMENT OF ROKG REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG'S PEKING VISIT. FONOFF HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED BY ROKG PURPOSES OF VISIT. CALL ON PM MIKI WAS EASILY ARRANGED AND FONOFF IS INTERESTED IN DEGREE OF RAPPORT MIK AND KIM MIGHT ATTAIN IN FIRST MEETING IN THEIR CURRENT CAPACITIES. FONOFF ASSUMES THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN WAKE OF INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS ON KOREAN ISSUES WHICH NECESSITATES ANY CHANGE IN GOJ POLICIES.

5. SEO'S COMMENTS UNDERLINE GOJ'S SERIOUS AND PERHAPS

GROWING CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF INDOCHINA
DEVELOPMENTS AND KIM IL SUNG DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES FOR
SECURITY OF ROK. ALTHOUGH HIS STATEMENT THAT GOJ POLICY
TOWARD ROK WOULD NOT CHANGE PRESUMABLY MEANS GOJ STILL
WANTS SOME ACTION ON KIM DAE-JUNG CASE, HEIGHTENED
CONCERN IN SEOUL AND TOKYO SHOULD IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE
FOR PREMIER KIM'S VISIT.
HODGSON

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